

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KHARTO 04293 061139Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /095 W  
-----065789 061514Z /53

R 061051Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6036  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 4293

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AID

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, SU, US, PINT, PDEV  
SUBJECT: INAUGURATION OF RAHAD PROJECT

1. ACCOMPANIED BY AF/E KEITH WAUCHOPE AND AID OFFICER  
RIC MACHMER, I ATTENDED OFFICIAL CEREMONIES AT RAHAD (NEAR  
BLUE NILE IN SOUTH CENTRAL SUDAN) ON DECEMBER 5. PRESIDENT  
NIMEIRI PRESIDED.
2. WE LEFT FOR RAHAD SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 4 ON A SPECIAL  
TRAIN WHICH TOOK TWELVE BUMPY, DUSTY HOURS TO WHEEZE TO ITS  
DESTINATION. HWE FIRST TRAVELED AROUND THE PROJECT IN THREE  
LARGE BUT VERY UNKEMPT SOVIET HELICOPTERS. WE SURVIVED.  
LATER MODES OF TRANSPORT WERE BUSSES AND MERCEDES SEDANS.  
THE RETURN TO KHARTOUM WAS THE PLEASANTEST PART OF THE JOURNEY  
--FIFTY FIVE MINUTES IN AN AIR TAXI.
3. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WAS IN EXCELLENT FORM, MAKING MANY  
STOPS AT KEY PARTS OF THE PROJECT TO JOSH WITH THE LOCAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KHARTO 04293 061139Z

CITIZENRY. HIS PROGRAM BEGAN TO RUN BEHIND, AND HE HURRIED  
MATTERS UP SO THAT HE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE PROJECT AT ABOUT 4 P.M.,  
30 MINUTES BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE. AT EVERY PLACE HE  
STOPPED, CATTLE WERE SLAUGHTERED FOR GOOD LUCK. ONE CAMEL  
WAS LIKEWISE SACRIFICED. THE LARGE MOTOR CONVOY RAISED A  
TYPHOON OF HEAVY DUST. I CALCULATE THAT THE THREE OF US  
COLLECTED ABOUT TWO KILOGRAMS OF SUDAN'S SOVEREIGN SOIL

DURING OUR PEREGRINATIONS.

4. THE SPEECHES OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION WERE MERCIFULLY SHORT AND BOTH EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE TO USG FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT. (HANDOUT LITERATURE GIVEN TO VISITORS DID LIKEWISE.) UNFORTUANTELY, HOWEVER, THIRD SPEAKER AT POPULAR RALLY WAS LOCAL MOSLEM DIVINE WHO, SEEING LARGE CAPTIVE AUDIENCE, COULD NOT RESIST REVIEWING MOST OF THE PRECEPTS OF HIS FAITH. THE FACT THAT HE CONTINUALLY REPEATED WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE CHOICE TURNS OF PHRASE DID NOT DETRACT FROM THE LENGTH OF HIS DISCOURSE.

5. NIMEIRI BROUGHT WITH HIM SADIQ AL-MAHDI. WHILE SADIQ WAS GIVEN DUE DEFERENCE BY SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS IN NIMEIRI'S ENTOURAGE, CROWDS PAID ABSOLUTELY NO ATTENTION TO HIM. IF IT WAS NIMEIRI'S INTENTION TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR TRADITIONALIST OLD POLITICIANS IN A DEVELOPING AND MODERNIZING SUDAN, HE ATTAINED THAT OBJECTIVE.

6. PROJECT ITSELF (WHICH I VISITED FOR FIRST TIME TWO MONTHS AGO) IS SIMPLY BREATHTAKING IN ITS SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION. POUCHING TO AF/E HANDOUT MATERIAL WHICH WAS GIVEN US BUT BELIEVE FULL DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE IN AID. FROM MY DAYS IN EGYPT AND TURKEY, I AM AN OLD COTTON WATCHER. THE MAGNIFICENT STANDS OF COTTON AT RAHAD FAR OUTSHINE ANYTHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KHARTO 04293 061139Z

I HAVE SEEN ELSEWHERE.

7. IT WAS GOOD TO SEE HEAVY AID-FINANCED AMERICAN EQUIPMENT BUSILY AT WORK LEVELING NEW FIELDS AND HARROWING. WE CAN BE PROUD OF THE CONTRIBUTION USG HAS MADE TO THIS IMPRESSIVE PROJECT. BERGUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INAUGURATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KHARTO04293  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770452-0423  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KHARTOUM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771289/aaaacxni.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** fb30790b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 347097  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INAUGURATION OF RAHAD PROJECT  
**TAGS:** EAID, PINT, PDEV, SU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/fb30790b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009